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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 004636

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SUBJECT: G-8 COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION IN KENYA

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[1](#)B. B) NAIROBI 4002

Classified By: POL/C Michael J. Fitzpatrick, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: The 5th session of the Nairobi G-8 Counter Terrorist Action Group met November 8 to discuss bilateral counter-terrorism assistance programs in Kenya and to better coordinate programs so as not to duplicate efforts. Unlike past sessions, in which the U.S. and U.K. were the only ones actively engaged on CT issues, other representatives presented ambitious CT engagement programs. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (C) Representatives from the British, German, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, French, Canadian, Japanese and Danish missions attended the 5th session of the Nairobi G8 (plus) Counter Terrorist Action Group (CTAG) on November 8. Representatives from UNDP and UNODC also attended in an effort to expand the group beyond the G8 to incorporate other players actively engaged in local counter-terrorism efforts. The U.K., as CTAG chair, opened the session with an overview of the current threat, which was similar to their assessment at the previous CTAG in April (Ref A). They assessed the threat from Al-Qai,da sponsored cells still exists, with between 12 and 15 highly professional AQ terrorists at large in the region. They added there is an emerging threat from al-Itihaad al-Islami (AIAI), which provides finance, materials and training to terrorists capable of mounting attacks inside Kenya.

UNDP Offers Ambitious CT Package

[1](#)3. (C) In a welcomed break from past CTAG sessions, the meeting was not dominated solely by U.S. and U.K. efforts. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the Danish aid agency, DANIDA, presented an action plan titled 'Strengthening counter-terrorism capacity for a safer Kenya.' The project, with a \$1.2 million budget, aims to enhance Kenya's CT capacity by working with the National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC). They aim to achieve the following outputs: improved legislation related to counter-terrorism; strengthened counter-terrorism capacity

respectful of civil liberties and human rights; enhanced awareness among the general public; and, enhanced religious tolerance and respect for cultural diversity. Planned activities include assistance to finalization of anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering legislation, training workshops for the judiciary and security sectors, and sensitization and awareness-raising workshops. UNDP consulted Post before finalizing plans, and they will continue to work closely with CTAG partners on this project.

Gaps in CT Strategies in Kenya

¶4. (C) Combating terrorist financing was identified as a major gap in Kenya's CT efforts. Only the U.S., UNODC, the Commonwealth and the IMF are looking into money laundering issues in Kenya. UNODC has offered Kenya assistance in this field, but they have yet to receive a positive response from the GOK. UNODC does provide Kenya some assistance, such as computer-based training for law enforcement, to stem money laundering and is trying to promote mechanisms to combat terrorist financing. Other gaps in Kenya's CT efforts identified included the absence of an actual national CT strategy, lack of CT legislation, and the absence of an effective prosecution and investigative organization.

U.S. and U.K. Still Take the Lead

¶5. (C) Apart from the UNDP plan, only the U.S. and U.K. have significant CT programs in Kenya. Since the last session in April (Ref A), the British have completed a counter-MANPAD training course at the main airport. The British CT representative, Colonel Rob Andrew, recently completed a comprehensive border security survey of the 800 km. Kenya-Somalia border, which he is developing into a border security management program. The British are planning to host a border security management seminar for senior Kenyan officials in late February, in close coordination with this Embassy. Andrew explained that, because of their unsuccessful attempts at working with the Kenyan Police, the U.K. has refocused its CT efforts towards U.K. interest, particularly aviation security, rather than towards issues in Kenya's strategic interest (Ref B).

Frustrations with GOK Resistance

¶6. (C) Frustration with the GOK and Kenya's lack of interest in CT issues was expressed by several CTAG members. The Dutch representative pointed out that donors seem to have enough money, advice, programs and people in place, but Kenya does not seem to want this help. He asked why Kenya is so resistant and what is the point of continuing with these programs if the Kenyans will not succeed in implementing them. His question echoed many of the frustrations we have faced lately. UK rep Andrew offered that those in power in the GOK must see it in their interest to become involved in any issue, and most Kenyans still do not see terrorism as a Kenyan problem. However, all agreed we must continue to work toward putting mechanisms in place to combat terrorism with the hope that when the GOK is ready to accept the problem and implement these mechanisms, a structure will exist within which to work.

Coordinating CT Efforts

¶7. (C) The meeting wrapped up with an agreement to push the GOK to see the CT threat. The key participants, the U.K., U.S., DANIDA, UNDP agreed to meet more regularly to continue to coordinate efforts, with an invitation to others who want to be more involved. UNDP offered to host future meetings to ensure continued cooperation on CT strategy.

18. (C) COMMENT: This meeting was far more productive than the previous CTAG, as the U.S. and U.K. were not the only participants with anything to offer. UNDP,s program is ambitious, but it covers important areas of CT strategy that should not be handled by us alone. Even Denmark contributed, explaining their &soft CT program8 of working with NGOs on the Coast to advocate for alternative ways to counter marginalization and to promote inter-faith dialogue. We continue to work closely with the British to ensure our CT programs complement each other, and it appears we have found new partners with UNDP and DANIDA. END COMMENT.
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